Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

News Release

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Maricopa County Supervisors Approve Acquiring Sundome from ASU and Contracting Nederlander to Operate It

This morning, Monday, November 14th, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve acquiring the Sundome from the Arizona Board of Regents for $10.00. In May, Chairman Max Wilson set the stage by offering ASU $9 more than they paid for the performing arts center when Del Webb sold it to them in 1984.

After considering bids from several national theatre management companies, Maricopa County will contract Nederlander Downtown, Inc. to act as facilities manager for the 7,000-seat Sundome. The initial term of the contract will be ten years with an option to extend for an additional term of ten years based upon the requirements as contained in the contract. The internationally renowned Nederlander company operates many theatres around the world, including nine on Broadway.

When ASU announced they wanted to sell the Sundome last year, residents in the area were afraid the historic performing arts complex might be replaced by housing and began calling their county supervisor, Max Wilson. He met with ASU president, Dr. Michael Crow, to discuss the possible purchase of the venue. At a public board meeting held at the Sundome on June 1st, the Board of Supervisors voted to look into the prospect of taking over the venue.

As the owner, the County does not have to pay property taxes on the multi-million dollar complex. Supervisor Wilson explains, "It is consistently one of my primary objectives to protect taxpayers. I am looking forward to this partnership for many years to come."